

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 212959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: TENG AP INTERVIEW

1. AP TODAY CARRIED FOLLOWING: CHINESE VICE PREMIER
TENG HSIAO-PING SAID TODAY THAT EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA
SUFFERED A SETBACK DURING THE VISIT LAST MONTH OF
SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, TENG SAID
THE VANCE DISCUSSIONS REPRESENTED A RETREAT FROM PROPOSALS
ADVANCED BY FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD AND FORMER
SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER.
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3. TENG MADE THESE POINTS IN THE INTERVIEW, HIS
FIRST SINCE RETURNING TO OFFICE IN JULY:

--FORMER PRESIDENT FORD PROMISED IN DECEMBER 1975 THAT IF
RE-ELECTED HE WOULD BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN,
SEAT OF THE CHINESE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT, AND ESTABLISH

THEM WITH PEKING.

--VANCE DISCUSSED SETTING UP A U.S. LIAISON MISSION IN
TAIWAN AND A FULL DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN PEKING, BUT THE

CHINESE REJECTED THAT.

--THOUGH THE CHINESE REGARD TAIWAN AS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM
THAT PERMITS NO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, THEY WOULD TAKE
INTO CONSIDERATION THE SPECIAL CONDITIONS PREVAILING ON
TAIWAN IN TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITH THE UNITED
STATES.

--REPORTS OF PROGRESS RESULTING FROM THE VANCE TRIP ARE
WRONG. TENG MADE THE COMMENTS IN A 90-MINUTE MEETING
WITH EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS OF THE AP WHO ARE ON A
16-DAY VISIT TO CHINA.

4. NO DIRECT QUOTATIONS WERE PERMITTED BECAUSE, CHINESE
OFFICIALS SAID, THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL TRANSLATION. TENG
SPOKE THROUGH AN INTERPRETER.

5. TENG SAID FORD PROMISED DURING HIS VISIT 21 MONTHS AGO
THAT IF RE-ELECTED HE WOULD RESOLVE THE TAIWAN PROBLEM THE
SAME WAY THE JAPANESE HAD DONE IT.

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6. JAPAN SEVERED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONALISTS
ON TAIWAN BUT HAVE MAINTAINED NONGOVERNMENT CONTACTS,
INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL TRADE WITH THE ISLAND.

7. JUST BEFORE VANCE CAME TO CHINA, TENG SAID, FORD MADE
A SPEECH TAKING A DIFFERENT VIEW OF HOW TO RESOLVE THE
TAIWAN ISSUE, BUT TENG INSISTED THAT FORD HAD MADE THE
PROMISE IN 1975.

8. TENG SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD PROMISED TO TAKE
THE THREE ACTIONS CHINA HAS DEMANDED FOR NORMALIZING
RELATIONS: BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN,
ABROGATING THE U.S.-TAIWAN DEFENSE PACT AND WITHDRAWING
AMERICAN TROOPS ON THE ISLAND.

9. TENG SAID VANCE CAME TO PEKING WITH A PROPOSAL THAT
WAS A RETROGRESSION FROM THAT POSITION.

10. HE SAID VANCE DISCUSSED ESTABLISHING FULL DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH CHINA BUT AT THE SAME TIME ESTABLISHING
A DIPLOMATIC LIAISON OFFICE ON TAIWAN.

11. IN EFFECT, THIS WOULD REVERSE THE PRESENT SITUATION.
THE UNITED STATES HAS FULL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND ONLY
A LIAISON MISSION IN PEKING.

12. TENG SAID THE REVERSE PROPOSAL WAS UNACCEPTABLE BE-
CAUSE IT WOULD MEAN CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC LINKS BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN.

13. TENG SAID HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KISSINGER ABOUT TAIWAN
WERE BASED ON THE IDEA THAT EVENTUALLY IT WOULD
BE THE UNITED STATES THAT WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE MOVES
NECESSARY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

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14. HOWEVER, HE SAID, VANCE CAME TO PEKING SAYING BOTH
SIDES WOULD HAVE TO MAKE EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE, AND THIS,
TENG SAID, IS A STEP BACK FROM THE POSITION OF FORD AND
KISSINGER.

15. TENG STRESSED THAT THE VANCE MEETINGS HAD BEEN
CORDIAL AND USEFUL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS BUT THAT REPORTS
OF PROGRESS WERE WRONG.

16. THE VICE PREMIER, WHO IS ALSO VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG,
REITERATED THE CHINESE POSITION THAT TAIWAN IS AN INTERNAL
PROBLEM.

17. HE SAID THE AMERICAN SIDE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR
CREATING AN IMPRESSION AFTER VANCE'S VISIT THAT THE
CHINESE WOULD BE FLEXIBLE ABOUT PROMISING NOT TO TAKE
TAIWAN BY FORCE IF THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAWS.

18. HE SAID THERE IS NO SUCH FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF
THE CHINESE.

19. THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE PATIENCE, TENG SAID HE TOLD
VANCE, BUT THE PATIENCE CANNOT LAST FOREVER. HE SAID
THERE WAS NO TALK OF A DEADLINE.

20. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN
RESISTED A TAKEOVER BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, TENG SAID
THIS WOULD LEAD TO A CONFLICT.

21. HE SAID THAT IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE TAIWAN
PROBLEM THE CHINESE WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE
SPECIAL CONDITIONS ON TAIWAN- HE SAID THAT IF THE UNITED
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STATES DID NOT INTERFERE, THE CHINESE WOULD NOT RULE OUT
THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFULLY SOLVING THE TAIWAN PROBLEM.

22. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON EITHER OF THOSE POINTS. VANCE

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